

world. We must turn around failing schools, hold States and school districts accountable for helping all children reach high academic standards, support charter schools and other forms of public school choice, expand after-school and summer programs, develop pathways to college and careers, and provide safe, drug-free schools for all our children. We must ensure that all our students have access to computers and that every classroom and library is connected to the Internet. If we want our children to compete at a world-class level, they must have modern, world-class schools. I am therefore challenging the Congress to enact my proposals to build and modernize 6,000 public schools; and I am also asking the Congress to continue funding to hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, the years that we know—intuitively and through research—are critical to the development of children's learning and thinking skills.

My Administration is working hard to improve our Nation's education system, but no government effort can replace the vision, encouragement, and dedication of our families and communities. As America's students go back to school this year, let us pledge to provide every child with a safe and supportive environment in which to learn and grow, and let us ensure that every segment of our society is involved in the effort. Let us also resolve that our young people will return to schools that are genuine places of learning, where they receive the care, attention, and education they need to reach their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 29 through September 11, 1999, as a time when America Goes Back to School. I encourage parents, schools, community and State leaders, businesses, civic and religious organizations, and the people of the United States to observe this period with appropriate ceremonies and activities expressing support for high academic standards and promoting family and community involvement in providing a quality education for every child.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 7219 of September 2, 1999**

### **Contiguous Zone of the United States**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

International law recognizes that coastal nations may establish zones contiguous to their territorial seas, known as contiguous zones.

The contiguous zone of the United States is a zone contiguous to the territorial sea of the United States, in which the United States may exercise the control necessary to prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration, or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory

or territorial sea, and to punish infringement of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

Extension of the contiguous zone of the United States to the limits permitted by international law will advance the law enforcement and public health interests of the United States. Moreover, this extension is an important step in preventing the removal of cultural heritage found within 24 nautical miles of the baseline.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution of the United States, and in accordance with international law, do hereby proclaim the extension of the contiguous zone of the United States of America, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession over which the United States exercises sovereignty, as follows:

The contiguous zone of the United States extends to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States determined in accordance with international law, but in no case within the territorial sea of another nation.

In accordance with international law, reflected in the applicable provisions of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea, within the contiguous zone of the United States the ships and aircraft of all countries enjoy the high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight and the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to those freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft, and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of international law reflected in the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Nothing in this proclamation:

- (a) amends existing Federal or State law;
- (b) amends or otherwise alters the rights and duties of the United States or other nations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States established by Proclamation 5030 of March 10, 1983; or
- (c) impairs the determination, in accordance with international law, of any maritime boundary of the United States with a foreign jurisdiction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON